

Application No. 10/764,008
Response to Office Action

Customer No. 01933

R E M A R K S

Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

THE TITLE

The title of the invention has been amended to more clearly identify the nature of the claimed present invention, as required by the Examiner.

THE CLAIMS

Claim 1 has been amended to clarify the feature of the present invention whereby the extending portion and proximal portion of the load beam are integrated. In addition, claim 1 has been amended to clarify the feature of the present invention whereby the step forming portion extends at an angle from the proximal portion to the extending portion of the load beam and along a side surface of the base plate, so as to offset the extending portion relative to the proximal portion in a thickness direction of the load beam, as supported by the disclosure in the specification at, for example, page 14, lines 22-24. (See also Fig. 13.)

No new matter has been added, and it is respectfully requested that the amendments to the claims be approved and entered.

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THE PRIOR ART REJECTION

Claims 1 and 2 were rejected under 35 USC 102 as being anticipated by USP 6,671,130 ("Berg et al"). This rejection, however, is respectfully traversed with respect claim 1 as amended hereinabove.

According to the present invention as recited in amended claim 1, a disc drive suspension is provided which comprises an extending portion which is provided on a side of the proximal portion of the load beam and which is integrated with the proximal portion, and a step forming portion which extends at an angle from the proximal portion to the extending portion and along a side surface of the base plate, so as to offset the extending portion relative to the proximal portion in a thickness direction of the load beam.

With this structure, the wired flexure with conductors may be fixed on the extending portion without projecting past the proximal portion of the load beam, due to the offset of the extending portion from the proximal portion in the thickness direction of the load beam. In addition, with the structure of the present invention as recited in amended claim 1, it is possible to enhance the stiffness of the extending portion.

By contrast, it is respectfully submitted that Berg et al discloses that the stiffener 128, on which the flexible tail portion 118 of the flex circuit 110 is mounted, extends from the

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second end 117 of suspension 122 at a same level as the second end 117. And according to Berg et al the stiffener 128 may be bent 180° to extend backward (see Fig. 7). With this structure, however, even when the stiffener 128 is bent backward, the portion of the stiffener 128 that connects to second end 117 of suspension 122 is still provided at the same level as the second end 117. Therefore, the portion of the flex circuit 110 that is mounted on this section of stiffener 128 projects from the level of second end 117.

It is therefore respectfully submitted that Berg et al clearly does not disclose, teach or suggest the feature of the present invention recited in amended claim 1 whereby the step forming portion extends at an angle from the proximal portion to the extending portion of the load beam, so as to offset the extending portion relative to the proximal portion in a thickness direction of the load beam.

In addition, it is respectfully submitted that Berg et al does not disclose, teach or suggest the feature of the present invention recited in amended claim 1 whereby the step forming portion extends along a side of the base portion.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that Berg et al does not disclose, teach or suggest the structural features or advantageous effects of the present invention as recited in amended claim 1, and it is respectfully submitted that amended

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claim 1 clearly patentably distinguishes over Berg et al, under
35 USC 102 as well as under and 35 USC 103.

THE DOUBLE PATENTING REJECTION

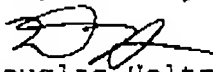
A Terminal Disclaimer with respect to commonly owned
USP 6,765,760 is submitted herewith to obviate the obviousness-
type double patenting rejection. Accordingly, it is respectfully
requested that this rejection be withdrawn.

* * * * *

In view of the foregoing, entry of this Amendment, allowance
of the claims and the passing of this application to issue are
respectfully solicited.

If the Examiner has any comments, questions, objections or
recommendations, the Examiner is invited to telephone the
undersigned for prompt action.

Respectfully submitted,


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